



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/682,618	10/08/2003	Kevin Brown	SVL920030062US1	3245

24852 7590 03/30/2006

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORP
IP LAW
555 BAILEY AVENUE , J46/G4
SAN JOSE, CA 95141

EXAMINER

SYED, FARHAN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2165

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/682,618	Applicant(s) BROWN ET AL.	
	Examiner Farhan M. Syed	Art Unit 2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20031008</u> . | 6) ☐ Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: Figure 4, item 52. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objection

3. Claim 9 objected to because of the following informalities: On line 1 of claim 9, it recites "The method of claim 1 further comprising associating a the virtual table..." The word 'a' should be removed from that line. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claim recites an article of manufacture comprising a computer program usable medium, where the term article of manufacture is intended to encompass a computer program accessible from any computer-readable device, carrier, or media. (Specifications, page 11, lines 22-24). If a carrier were used to execute a computer program, this would produce an intangible result, which under 35 U.S.C. 101 is non-statutory subject matter. .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Couch et al (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2003/0126109 and known hereinafter as Couch).

As per claims 1, 10, and 14, Couch teaches a method of interfacing a messaging system to a database management system (i.e. *"A method and system for converting messaging data into a relational table format in a database system, wherein the messaging data is within a messaging system is disclosed."*)(Abstract) having a table for storing data (i.e. *"The table function can be used within a single SQL statement to access and convert the message data, and to populate directly a relational table."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a message data is stored in a table)(page 2, paragraph 14) and also having at least one database command to access the table (i.e. *"The method and system of the present invention also includes invoking the table function to access the messaging data"* The preceding text clearly indicates that a table function is at least one database command.)(Abstract), the messaging system having at least one messaging system command to access a message queue, comprising: accessing the message queue as a table in accordance with the database command (i.e. *"The table function can be used within a single SQL statement to access and convert the message data, and to populate directly a relational table. The user is no longer required to perform conversion steps because the conversion is automatically performed by the table function. Moreover, a table view can be created and utilized by a user to select a message and then have the selected message string returned in relational table format."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a message queue is accessed as a table, where the message data contained in the message queue is stored in a table using a database command, which is a table function that uses a single SQL statement.)(Page 2, paragraph 14).

As per claims 2 and 15, Couch teaches a method wherein the database command is a SQL statement (i.e. *"When the client invokes the table function, e.g., within an SQL statement, the table function accesses messaging data stored in a particular message queue 30, in step 120, by invoking an appropriate messaging function UDF 70. The messaging data is read or retrieved as a message string, which is then parsed by the table function in step 130."* The preceding text clearly

indicates that a database command is a table function that is accessed by a SQL statement.)(Page 3, paragraph 34).

As per claims 3 and 16, Couch teaches a method further comprising: associating a virtual table with the message queue, wherein said accessing accesses the message queue through the virtual table (i.e. *"In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a programming module running on a client computer system (e.g., 10a, 10b) builds a table function that can access the messaging data stored in the message queue 30 and convert that data into specific data types in relational table format. The table function is a UDF that invokes at least one other UDF, which preferably includes a messaging function. Through the messaging function, the table function is able to retrieve (destructively read) or read messaging data. The table function then converts the messaging data into specific data types in relational table format."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a virtual table is a table that is used to store message queue data in a relational database.)(Page 3, paragraph 33).

As per claim 4 Couch teaches a method wherein the SQL statement is a SQL INSERT statement to insert message-data in the virtual table, wherein said accessing receives the message-data from the virtual table and writes the message-data to the message queue (i.e. *"In a preferred embodiment, illustrated in FIG. 9, the user is given the option of creating a view of the table function 260 and/or saving the message data formatting and column definitions to a file 262. If the user chooses to create a table view 260, the user must specify a view name 261 and, optionally, a view comment 264. If the user also chooses to save the column specifications to a file 262, the user specifies a file name 263 to which the specifications will be saved. In this manner, the user can import the same specifications, if appropriate, into a new table function by specifying the filename at the message formatting stage (FIG. 7, item 241), thereby saving time and effort."* The

preceding text clearly indicates that an SQL INSERT is invoked when a user imports the same specifications into a new table function, where the virtual table is a type of table.)(Page 4, paragraph 63).

As per claims 5, 12, and 17, Couch teaches a method wherein the SQL statement is a SQL SELECT statement to read message-data from the message queue and return the message-data in the virtual table (i.e. *"The table function returns each message on the queue as a five-column row. A table view named CustomerDataView is also built, which through a simple SQL statement, such as "SELECT * FROM CUSTOMERVIEW DATA," returns the message data as the following row: 2 Name City Age Sex Salary John Doe San Jose 39 M 36000.00"* The preceding text clearly indicates that an SQL SELECT statement is used to read the message-data from the message queue.)(Page 5, paragraph 70).

As per claim 6, Couch teaches a method wherein said read is a non-destructive read (i.e. *"As is seen, the user can choose to build a table function that RECEIVES (i.e., destructively reads) messages 201, or READs (non-destructively) messages 202 from the designated message queue 30."*)(Page 3, paragraph 48).

As per claims 7 and 18, Couch teaches a method wherein said read is a destructive read (i.e. *"As is seen, the user can choose to build a table function that RECEIVES (i.e., destructively reads) messages 201, or READs (non-destructively) messages 202 from the designated message queue 30."*)(Page 3, paragraph 48).

As per claims 8 and 19, Couch teaches a method wherein if the SQL SELECT statement comprises a constraint, said accessing applies the constraint when reading

Art Unit: 2165

the message-data from the message queue (i.e. *"The table function returns each message on the queue as a five-column row. A table view named CustomerDataView is also built, which through a simple SQL statement, such as "SELECT * FROM CUSTOMERVIEW DATA," returns the message data as the following row: 2 Name City Age Sex Salary John Doe San Jose 39 M 36000.00"* The preceding text clearly indicates that the SQL SELECT statement inherently comprises of a constraint to narrow or specify certain data to be returned to the user.)(Page 5, paragraph 70).

As per claims 9, 13, and 20, Couch teaches a method further comprising associating a the virtual table with the message queue (i.e. *"The present invention is directed to a method and system for converting messaging data into a relational table format in a database system, wherein the messaging data is within a messaging system."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a virtual table is a type of table.)(Page 2, paragraph 13) and at least one other message queue to provide a set of message queues (i.e. *"Applications communicate by agreeing to use particular named message queues, sending messages to the specific target queues that the application programs have agreed to read from. The locations of these queues need not be apparent to the applications which send the messages; each application interacts only with its local queue manager, and it is the network of interconnected queue managers that is responsible for moving the messages to the intended queues."* The preceding text clearly indicates that message queues contain at least more than one message queue.)(Page 1, paragraph 6), wherein said accessing accesses the set, comprising the message queue, in accordance with the database command (i.e. *"The table function can be used within a single SQL statement to access and convert the message data, and to populate directly a relational table. The user is no longer required to perform conversion steps because the conversion is automatically performed by the table function. Moreover, a table view can be created and utilized by a user to select a message and then have the selected message string returned in relational table format."* The preceding text clearly indicates that a message queue is accessed as a table,

Art Unit: 2165

where the message data contained in the message queue is stored in a table using a database command, which is a table function that uses a single SQL statement)(Page 2, paragraph 13).

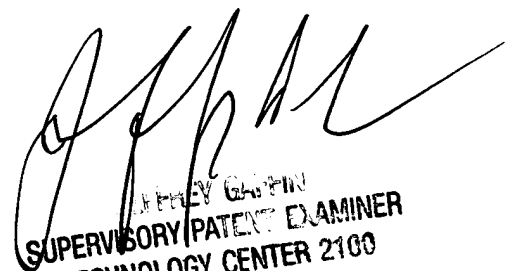
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farhan M. Syed whose telephone number is 571-272-7191. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FMS


JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100